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Testimony in Support of

S.B. No. 336, 'An Act Concerning the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit'

Before the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

As a parent at St. Peter and Paul School, I support S.B. No. 336.

Since our daughter Natalie has been in St. Peter and Paul School, she has shown a confidence that we have never seen before. She has always been a good student however she has not been challenged enough and got bored very easily in public school. As so did some of her classmates that also attended public school. When they found out that Natalie was going to St. Peter and Paul School, her friends stated that they wished they were also going there, and it was something that their parents wanted for them but they could not afford it. We live in the St. Peter and Paul neighborhood, and we know there are a lot of families that if they were able to afford sending their children to St. Peter and Paul, they would. Just for the convenience of being close to home, the smaller student/teacher ratio than that at a public school, and the fact that their child will not be bullied. We know there is a no bullying policy in public schools but there is no follow thru, and the one who suffers is the child. This is not an issue in Catholic Schools.

I have to be honest, if Catholic Schools were more affordable, then we would have enrolled our daughter sooner. Our issue now is trying to figure out how to pay for high school in two years. One of us is currently enrolled at the University of Bridgeport, and pay \$15,000+ a year for a Bachelor's Degree, this is also the current cost for Holy Cross and Sacred Heart. With God's blessing, I will graduate with a MS in Education and will be able to afford her tuition, if not we will need to also apply for financial aid, and we only have one child, or send her to public school and hope for the best.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 336.

Sincerely,

Maribel Zayas and Carmelo Cheverez